

Date Mailed  
April 11, 2000

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Second Petition of Customers of the Niagara Exchange of  
Niagara Telephone Company for Extended Area Service  
With the Iron Mountain Exchange of Ameritech Michigan

4160-TV-102

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING  
AND  
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

**THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO** investigate the petition of customers of the Niagara exchange for extended area service (EAS). On March 14, 2000, the Commission received a petition from approximately 567 customers of the Niagara exchange of Niagara Telephone Company. The petition requests EAS with the Iron Mountain, Michigan, exchange, consisting of telephone numbers beginning with 774, 776, and 779 in area code 906. The number of signatures is sufficient to warrant further consideration under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.05(1).

By order dated December 30, 1999, the Commission denied a petition from Niagara customers on this same issue. Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 167.08(2) provides that, upon denial of an EAS petition, the Commission need not consider another petition involving the same exchanges for two years. However, the order noted that, because of the particular circumstances of that case, another petition would be given consideration on its merits, even if filed within the 2-year period.

When this matter was addressed in 1999, almost 50 percent of the Niagara customers voted for EAS; however, the rules required that the petition be denied because a majority of customers in that exchange did not favor the proposal. Given the substantial continued interest in this matter, the Commission will proceed to investigate this most recent petition in accordance with the rules set forth in Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 167.

The Commission will investigate this matter in accordance with its authority under Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 167, and Wis. Stat. §§ 196.02(1), 196.03(1) and (6), 196.28(1), and 196.37(2).

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Commission may deem it necessary in order to carry out its duties herein to investigate the books, accounts, practices, and activities of Niagara Telephone Company. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such investigation will be assessed against and collected from Niagara Telephone Company in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85, and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

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The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions on this matter may be addressed to case coordinator Tom Gross of the Commission staff at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729 or by e-mail at *grosst@psc.state.wi.us*.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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